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ARMY TALKS

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ETO - U.S. ARMY

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HOW TO BLUNT A BLITZKREIG



"When we emplace machine guns on the ground floors of buildings to deliver grazing fire, we put them well back in the room to hide the flash and muzzle blast, and place chickenwire over the ground floor windows to stop grenades."

* * * *

"With our mortars we use 60mm high explosive and illuminating shells alternately. The Jerries freeze in position when the illuminating shells are fired and heavy casualties can sometimes be inflicted with the following round of H.I."

* * * *

"We operate a tire repair section in our regimental motor park which repairs tires and tubes that cannot be repaired by drivers. In three days the section repaired 181 tubes. The section is also responsible for evacuating tires and tubes which it cannot repair to the rear for repair or salvage."

* * * *

"When we took Pattern, fire support came from one direction while the maneuvering force came from another. The Germans were completely surprised. Several of their self-propelled guns were sited to meet an attack from the expected direction and three of them were caught in flank. When the Germans attempted to shift to meet the maneuvering force, an artillery battalion caught them with 'time on target' fire and inflicted heavy losses. The only American

casualties were three, caused by mines after the town was captured."

* * * *

"Troops must learn to report and ask for counterfires against observed enemy weapons, even though not directed at them. The Germans often cross the fires of their artillery, mortars, machine guns and direct fire weapons. Men must realize that good teamwork in reporting them will assist the entire advance."

* * * *

"If we approached a village and saw the citizens proceeding with normal daily routines, we felt sure the enemy was not defending. If the people were indoors and quiet, it was a sure indication the enemy was prepared to defend."

* * * *

"When our supporting artillery fire lifted, bazookas were used to give the impression of continued artillery fire. This enabled the infantry to move close to the enemy positions without receiving small arms fire."

* * * *

"A wire reel attached to a cub airplane was used in Italy to lay wire quickly over difficult terrain. On one occasion wire was laid over a mountain to a point three miles away in a very few minutes, a job that would have taken several hours by wire truck. The reel was designed, built and attached to the plane by the chief mechanic of the group's air section."

* * * *

"Luminous watches or compasses are used for communication by members of night patrols. The watch or compass is strapped to the inside of the hand and prearranged signals given by opening and closing the hand."



WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED READING THIS COPY OF "ARMY TALKS" — PASS IT ALONG



ARMY TALKS

"The purpose of the program is to give the soldier psychological preparation for combat, and a better realization of the import of every phase of his military training. Emphasis will be placed on combat orientation. The mental and physical conditioning of the enemy, and a proper evaluation of the enemy's weapons and fighting qualities will be stressed. A better understanding of the background of the war, and the soldier's responsibilities in the post-war world will also be developed."

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL EISENHOWER.

(Extract from letter ETO. I August 1944, AG 352/2 OpSS, Subject : Combat Orientation Program).

USSR

HOW TO BLUNT
A BLITZKRIEG



AT DAWN on 22 June 1941 more than 200 Axis divisions — some two million men — plunged into a front 2,000 miles broad. . . the European boundary of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The attack was concentrated on three main objectives: Leningrad, Moscow, and Kiev. In the first 30 days German forces rolled to within 125 miles of Leningrad. The Finns, supported by the Germans, began a drive from the north to encircle the city. In the center, the Nazis knifed 430 miles into Soviet territory toward Moscow. In the south they swept into the Ukraine, capturing Kiev on the way.

This was blitzkrieg in top form. German victory in the east seemed as sure as the victory in the west. Many military experts gave the USSR from three weeks to three months. Yet six months later, in the win-

ter of 1941, the blitz had stumbled, fallen, and frozen. The Red Army launched smashing counterattacks. Throughout that severe winter, they were on the offensive against the Wehrmacht.

In the early summer of 1942, the Germans regained the initiative and concentrated their strength against Stalingrad — a thousand miles deep in the USSR. If Hitler could cut through here, he would sever the north from the south and win Caucasus oil to fuel and lubricate his war machine.

By late August the German juggernaut possessed 980,000 square miles of Soviet territory; its guns and bombers had shattered Stalingrad. With victory only a step away, German troops entered Stalingrad on 16 September.

But again the Wehrmacht had not reckoned with Red Army cour-

age. Soviet Armies lashed furiously in a spectacular counterattack. Brilliantly-executed encircling moves of the Red Army made the besiegers the besieged. Stalingrad still stood. In this great German defeat, Hitler lost 22 divisions, 25 generals, and 330,000 prisoners.

Never again were they able to develop a sustained offensive. They tried with a move toward Moscow in July 1943 but were repelled. In August, the whole front began to move westward. By 7 November of the next year, Marshal Stalin was able to announce that the Red Army had "cleared our land of the enemy". One must go back before the war to see what made this victory possible.

WAR NERVES gave peaceful nations the jitters in 1938 and 1939 as Hitler gobbled Memel and part of Czechoslovakia. Faced with the possibility of still further Nazi aggression, Prime Minister Chamberlain announced to the House of Commons on 31 March 1939 that "in the event of any action which clearly threatened Polish independence, and which the Polish Government accordingly considered it vital to resist with their national forces, his Majesty's Government would feel themselves bound at once to lend the Polish Government all support in their power."

Similar guarantees were given to Greece, Rumania and Turkey. France stood with Great Britain in these maneuvers to build a bloc of "Stop Hitler" nations.

Meanwhile the British and French governments negotiated to bring the Soviet Union into the new bloc. Many British leaders, among them Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden, who did not hold cabinet

I swear to defend her
with honor...



posts at that time, were critical of the Chamberlain government for not achieving a military alliance with the USSR. Mr Churchill spoke in the House of Commons on 19 May 1939: "I have been quite unable to understand what is the objection to making the agreement with Russia... and making it in the broad and simple form proposed by the Russian Soviet Government."

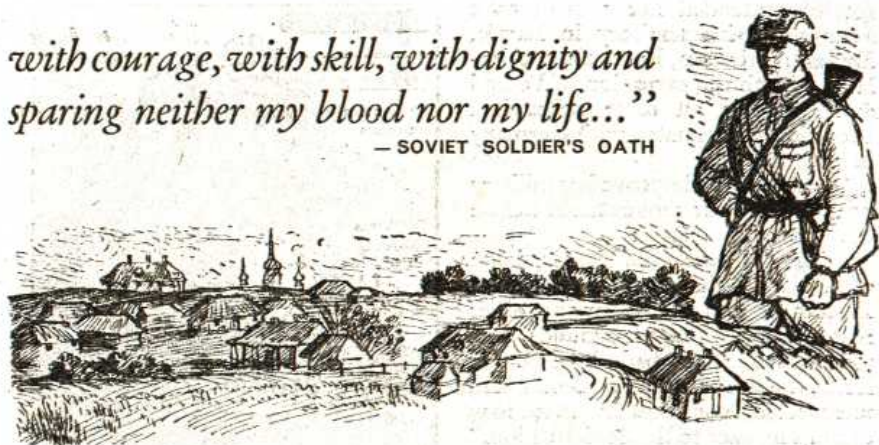
The Nub of the Question

Late in August, Marshal Voroshilov declared in an interview in *Izvestia*: "During the staff conversations with Britain and France, the Soviet delegation had argued that to be able to give effective aid to them (against Germany) Soviet troops would have to enter Polish territory. The Anglo-French Mission did not agree with this thesis, and the Polish Government had declared that they would not accept military help from the USSR. That made military cooperation impossible."

Britain and France, having guaranteed Poland's independence, apparently believed it inconsistent with their policy to agree to Soviet troops marching into Poland. The

*with courage, with skill, with dignity and
sparing neither my blood nor my life..."*

— SOVIET SOLDIER'S OATH



military alliance unfortunately was not achieved.

Late in August 1939, the big story broke: the Soviet Union and Germany had signed a Non-Aggression Treaty. News services cabled over a million words in one week from Europe to America. Communications services were so jammed that messages were at times ten hours late in arriving.

The terms were simple. In essence, Germany and the Soviet Union would "refrain from every act of force, every aggressive action and every attack against one another" and that in case of disagreement, they would settle differences by "friendly exchange of opinions."

How Hitler Honored the Pact

Thus insured against war with the Soviet Union, Hitler was free to attack in the west.

But he continued to establish himself in an advantageous military position in the east by taking the rest of Czechoslovakia and a big slice of Poland in 1939. His conquest of Norway in 1940 gave him bases useful for possible operations against the northern parts of the

USSR. During 1940-41 he prevailed upon Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria to join the Axis alliance, and German Armies were established within those nations on Russia's southern flank.

Hitler was in position to strike at one of his primary objectives as set down in *Mein Kampf*: "When we are talking of more ground room in Europe, we can in the first place only think of Russia and the border states dependent on her."

Soviet Not Asleep at the Switch

Meanwhile, the Soviets were not daydreaming. "We lack information regarding critical matters related to the Soviet's international actions prior to the German attack on 22 June 1941," the War Department states in an outline of the Campaigns in the USSR. "But it is reasonably well established that she may have seen a German attack coming and have made the Nonaggression Pact with Germany to gain time for industrial and military preparation; that, basing her action on the same probability, she attacked Finland to improve her own military frontier in the region of Leningrad, and later

forcibly extended her control over former Russian territory in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Rumania, and Poland. With the exception of Poland and Rumania all these states had been closely associated with Germany in the past."

The USSR *did* improve her military position by four moves made before the German attack:

First: following the Nazi invasion of Poland, the Soviets occupied Eastern Poland giving among other reasons, the military grounds that the Polish state had become "a fertile field for any accidental and unexpected contingency that may create a menace to the Soviet Union."

Most of the territory taken had been part of the Russian empire before 1917. By occupying it, the Soviets acquired 77,705 square miles to cushion to some extent the German attack when it came.

Second: Finland, which was used by the Nazis as one base for operations against the USSR had also been a part of the old Russian Empire. The Finns declared their independence in 1917 and the Russo-Finnish border was located some 20 miles — within artillery range — from Russia's important manufacturing center and second largest city, Leningrad.

USSR Tries Negotiation First

The Soviets negotiated with the Finns from 11 Oct until 30 Nov 1939 to change that boundary line. The negotiations failed and war resulted. Finland was defeated after three and one-half months of bitter fighting. The peace settlement gave the Soviets a 30-year lease on the Hango Peninsula for which they paid a yearly rent of \$160,000. (They constructed a naval base there.) Finland also ceded the shores of Lake Ladoga and the Karelian Isthmus near Leningrad plus some



border territory in the north about 60 miles from the Murmansk railroad. The Soviet forces evacuated Petsamo, leaving the valuable nickel mines of that area in Finnish territory. The text of the treaty signed 12 March 1940 states that "the safety of their cities particularly Leningrad, Murmansk and the Murmansk railroad..." was assured the Soviets.

The territory gained by the treaty provided a buffer area where the Red Army held out against Finnish and German troops for 36 days after the Nazi attack in 1941. Leningrad, although besieged until 24 Jan 1944, never fell.

Third: In June 1940 the Soviet Government occupied the Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. They too had been a part of the Russian Empire before 1917. When war came, the onrushing Wehrmacht was delayed 59 days before the Red Army withdrew from this area. The naval and air bases built there were used to hammer German shipping in the Baltic Sea.

Fourth: Rumania was forced to hand over Bessarabia to the Soviet Union on 26 June 1940. Bessarabia was a part of the Russian Empire from 1812 to 1856 and again from 1878 to 1918, when it was seized by Rumania, an act which the Soviet Government never recognized.

The addition of this territory also delayed the German advance into Russia for over a month after the first attack on 22 June 1941. It was not until 22 July that the German communique could claim "Bessarabia is completely liberated from the enemy."

Defense in Depth

Territories the USSR acquired after September 1939 served as a part of the buffer area where Soviet frontier troops absorbed the initial shock of the German attack. These territories were a part of the *space* which the Soviet exchanged for the *time* she needed to bring her armies up to maximum strength.

German tactics were the same as those used in previous campaigns: find a weak spot in the enemy's line or create the weak spot with artillery and divebombers...break through with a spearhead of mechanized forces followed by infantry...fan out behind the enemy lines, encircling and chopping up enemy forces.

To meet these tactics, Red Army defenses were planned in great depth. Soviet frontier armies retreated and merged with forces further behind the front. As the Germans advanced, the enlarged group of Red Army men retreated still further and merged with more forces behind the front. The retreat was marked by bitter fighting all the way. In this manner, the bulk of the Soviet forces escaped encirclement, inflicted terrific losses on the enemy. The further the Germans advanced, the stronger

became the forces opposing them.

On occasion, the direct line of retreat might be blocked, but with vast space at the Soviets' disposal, lateral maneuver was still possible. Red Army forces which were isolated were reinforced by *organized* guerrilla fighters. Together they harassed the German rear.

The Soviets estimate that the Germans sustained casualties equivalent to at least 30 full strength divisions, as a result of guerrilla warfare. The guerrillas captured towns, smashed railway junctions and airfields, and struck at the enemy's store of supplies. Such action reduced German mobility, for mobility can be developed only from a protected base.

Soviet cities were made into fortresses to stop tanks, absorb bombs and afford protection for the infantry. Smolensk held up the Nazis for 70 days on the road to Moscow. Stalingrad, besieged for six months, was never taken.

German-style blitzkrieg demands a continuous unlimited offensive, which strikes and if repulsed at any point, strikes elsewhere. The USSR's distances made such procedure difficult.

The Red Army

The "defense in depth" principle is good in theory, and it worked in practice. Because the Soviet Union had the space and because of the quality of the Red Army — its men and leaders — who put it into operation.

The provision of good officers was a difficult problem for the USSR. "They started from practically nothing 20 years ago. The Russians fully realized this weakness and started large and fine schools for officers," according to Lt General Martel, military analyst for the London Evening Standard. If "winning battles" is evidence of



an officer's training, then those schools did their job well.

The Red Army long ago abolished the system of electing officers. Saluting, once forbidden, is now required, and officers are strict disciplinarians.

The Army is so organized that beneath the Supreme Command are a number of front commanders. Each front commander may direct the operations of two, three, four or seven armies, depending upon the length of his battle line and the importance of his sector.

Generally speaking, a Colonel General commands a front, a Lieutenant General commands an army, and a Major General commands a division.

Soviet papers do not inform their readers, as does the U.S. press, of the tastes, hobbies and other details of the personal life of generals, statesmen and others. "Routine information that in many countries is so harmless that it is published in the daily press, is considered a military secret in the Soviet Union," reported American newspaperman Walter Kerr. "It took me eighteen months in Moscow to learn that Zhukov was married and that his home was in the capital."

Generals From the Ranks

It is known that the Red Army's leaders come from many national groups, for the Soviet Union, like the U.S., is a "melting pot." The Russians are the majority people in the USSR, so they have produced the majority of leaders; but Ukrainians, Cossacks, Georgians, Jews and Siberians are also high ranking officers.

Almost all the generals are sons of poor people, workers or peasants. They served as privates or corporals in World War I and are young men on the average. Forty-six year-old Marshal Vassilevsky, Chief of the General Staff, is the son of a Volga

peasant. The former factory worker, Marshal Zhukov, at the age of 48 commanded the troops which destroyed the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad. The Red Army's greatest authority on artillery, peasant born Marshal Voronov, is 44. General Chernyakhovsky who worked as a farm laborer and later was in the vanguard of troops that stormed Kiev, Zhitomir and East Prussia, has reached the ripe age of 37.

"It was not in organization that I found the real strength of the Red Army; nor did I find it solely in the youth of its generals, its manpower or munitions," says Walter Kerr in his book, *The Russian Army*. "I found its strength in the fighting heart of its soldiers, in their training, their discipline and the civilian strength behind them."

Soviet GI Gripes Like Ours

The men of Russia have always been magnificent material for an army. An incident reported by a British newspaperman demonstrates the toughness of the Red Army men. The reporter saw an infantry battalion file past a dump of 25-pounder ammunition. Two shells were loaded on each man's back in addition to his normal load. The mud was very deep, transport could not move, and a shortage of artillery ammunition at one point had to be relieved.

"The Red Army man mumbles black imprecations under his breath about the *Military Patrols*, when they pick him up for carrying a large package on the street, or for having his garrison belt buckled on the wrong side. He makes the same gags about *evinya tushunka* (a canned pork preparation) that we make about spam. In training, he hates obstacle courses and extended order drill. In combat, he curses the easy lot of the Red Air Force men and the Red Tank Corps men. The

flyers and tankmen wear special caps — also dress uniforms with snappy white skirts and black ties — and, just as in our army, they are openly envied as 'the glamour boys who get everything'.

Combat Tips à la Russe

"A standard part of the basic training for all ground troops is a recorded radio lecture by Lt Gen V.I. Chuikov, one of the heroes of Stalingrad, on how to behave during an offensive. 'Let your attack be a headlong one,' says General Chuikov. 'Get to the enemy in one leap. In open spaces, where the enemy is target firing, you must take short runs singly, jump up in a trice and forward like an arrow. It is important to give the Germans no time to take aim; run for two or three seconds and then drop to the ground. . . Camouflage yourself. Take cover. Do not get separated from your tanks. Fire at enemy anti-tank crews and wipe them out. Before attacking an enemy trench, throw all your grenades into it first. . . Do not be afraid of enemy tanks. When they approach get into a hole and stay there. Our own tanks and antitank guns will take care of them. Your job is to wipe out the infantry'."

Supporting the army is the Red Air Force, the Navy and the Marines. In all of these organizations as fighters, snipers, pilots, nurses and engineers are women of the Soviet Union. The number of women in the armed forces and the size of the Soviet fighting organizations are military secrets known only to a few leaders of the USSR. Together they make a real fighting combination.

Modern wars are not won by officers and men of armies; the total effort of all the people of a nation is necessary for victory. The late Wendell Willkie, after visiting the Eastern

Front in 1943, said, "I realized more clearly than ever before that in Russia the phrase, 'This is a people's war' has real meaning. It is the Russian people in the fullest sense who are resolved to destroy Hitlerism. What they have been through and what they face in the months ahead cannot fail to stir any American."

Over 20 million people were evacuated eastward as the tide of German invasion swept forward. What the people could not take with them, they destroyed. It was not easy, but homes as well as barns and unmovable equipment went up in flames. Orchards were chopped down. Livestock was killed or driven on ahead. The mighty Dnieper Dam, symbolizing industrial progress, was blown up to prevent the Germans from using the electricity which it produced. Hitler found the rich Soviet bread-basket empty and the earth scorched.

German efforts to convert mines, oil wells or factories to their needs were discouraging. The population which remained not only would not cooperate, but they sabotaged the Germans in every way possible. Workers by days were guerrilla fighters by night.

A Whole Nation Moves

Practically no machinery had been left for Hitler to convert to his needs. The big factories of the Kharkov, Moscow, Leningrad and Rostov areas were moved eastward out of danger.

V.N. Obratzov, Director General of Traffic, USSR said, "We had to cope with the biggest population movement in history — of evacuees and whole industries to beyond the Volga, to the Urals, to Central Asia, and of troops with their vast equipment to the front." American correspondents leaving Moscow for

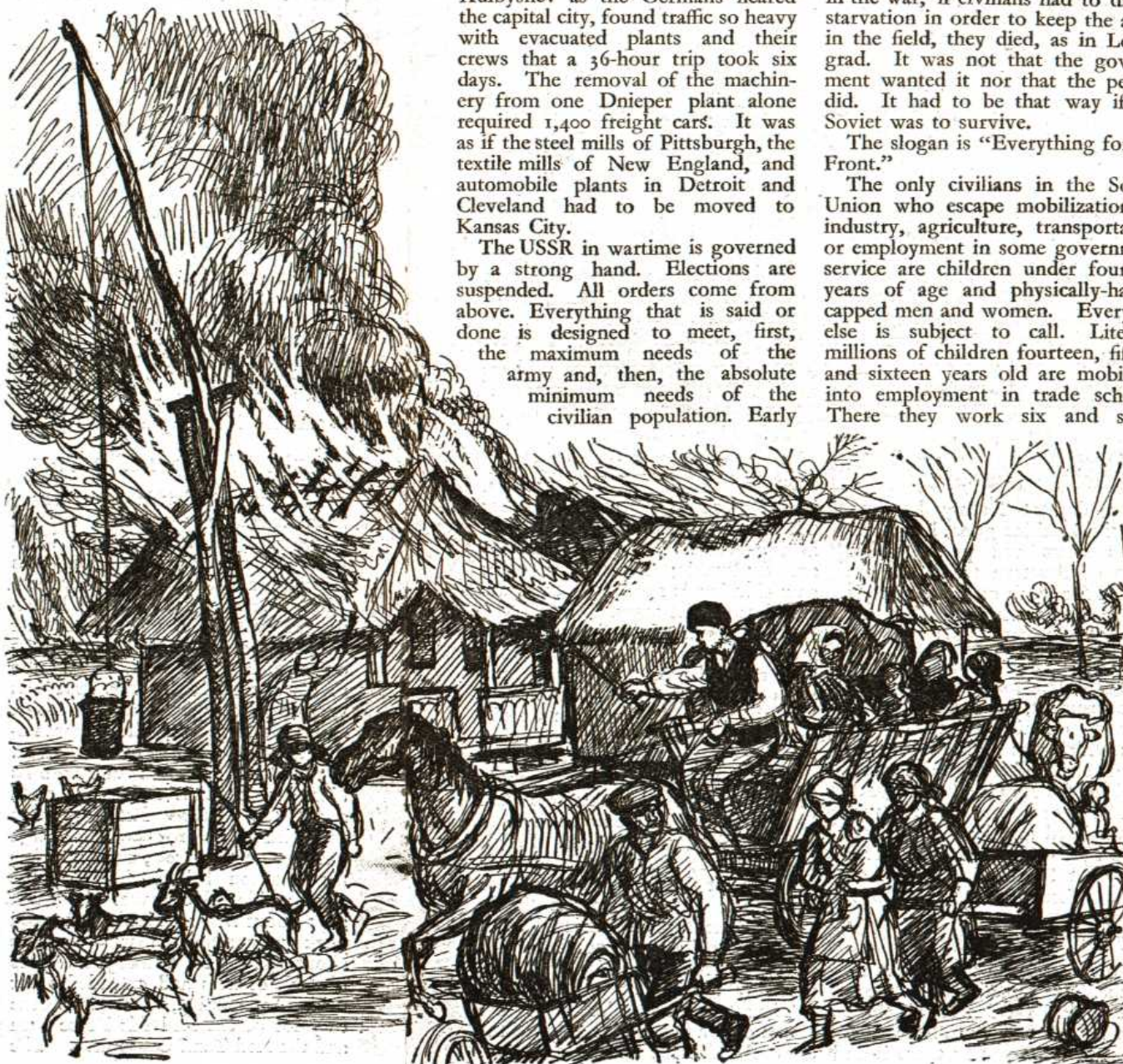
Kuibyshev as the Germans neared the capital city, found traffic so heavy with evacuated plants and their crews that a 36-hour trip took six days. The removal of the machinery from one Dnieper plant alone required 1,400 freight cars. It was as if the steel mills of Pittsburgh, the textile mills of New England, and automobile plants in Detroit and Cleveland had to be moved to Kansas City.

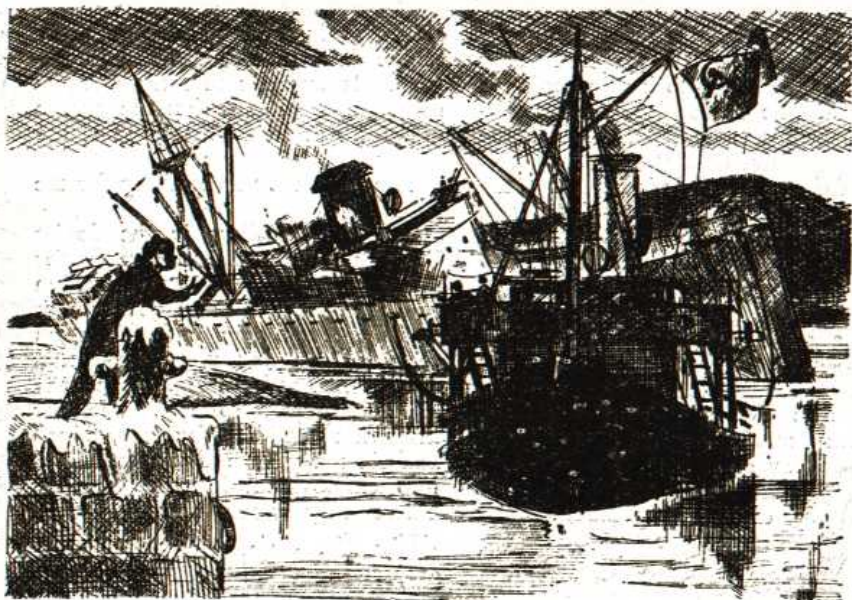
The USSR in wartime is governed by a strong hand. Elections are suspended. All orders come from above. Everything that is said or done is designed to meet, first, the maximum needs of the army and, then, the absolute minimum needs of the civilian population. Early

in the war, if civilians had to die of starvation in order to keep the army in the field, they died, as in Leningrad. It was not that the government wanted it nor that the people did. It had to be that way if the Soviet was to survive.

The slogan is "Everything for the Front."

The only civilians in the Soviet Union who escape mobilization for industry, agriculture, transportation or employment in some government service are children under fourteen years of age and physically-handicapped men and women. Everyone else is subject to call. Literally millions of children fourteen, fifteen and sixteen years old are mobilized into employment in trade schools. There they work six and seven





hours a day at factory benches, making submachine guns, hand grenades, mortars and parts. Other children of fourteen to sixteen are mobilized for work on the country's collective farms, wherever they are needed most.

When the war broke out, all civilian construction was stopped. The government, for example, stopped work on the Palace of the Soviets which was to have been an enormous steel and concrete building, taller than the Empire State Building. The war found its substructure completed and its steel girders in place up to the fifth story. This was a great Soviet dream, but an order was issued to tear it down and use the structural steel for military purposes.

The pressure is on the civilian all the time. If he does his work well he is paid for it, though there is little he can buy for his money. If he does his job poorly, there is an

investigation to determine whether the reason is unwillingness or plain incompetence. Housing conditions are deplorable; homes are cold; new clothing is needed — these are sacrifices for the army.

"The people of the Soviet Union, men, women, and children alike, have made the war with Germany a 'people's war,'" says our own War Department. "No government could have secured such enthusiastic obedience to orders and such eager initiative on the part of a whole people *unless* the people themselves had found that they had something worth fighting for, worth dying for if needs be. It may have been their old love for their soil. It may have been their devotion to the Soviet regime—the first in Russian history to show any great concern for the people's welfare." Wise men will probably agree that it was both.

The retreat of industry to the east is only a part of the story of the Soviets' industrial effort for victory.

The total factory output of Czarist Russia on the eve of world War I was about the same as that of the US during the years when Thomas Jefferson was President. At the start of the present war, Soviet industry was producing twelve times as much. Long before the Germans thundered across Western Russia, many industrial centers had been built east of the Ural mountains, far from the reach of grasping Germans.

Democracies Pledge Aid

Nevertheless, the heart of Soviet industry was in the west. Fifty percent of her food, steel and cast iron had been produced there. Forty percent of the Soviet output of coal and machine tools and twenty percent of her oil had come from areas overrun by Hitler's forces.

Realizing the USSR's desperate need for supplies, Prime Minister Churchill declared on 22 June 1941 that "Any man or State who fights against Nazism will have our aid." The United States 48 hours later also pledged every possible assistance to the Soviet Union in the war against Germany.

Great Britain rendered valuable aid to the Soviet, particularly in the way of finished munitions, and the United States shipped almost six billion dollars' worth of Lend-lease supplies to the Soviet Union during the first three years of the war.

The ace of fighter pilots, Lt Col Alexander Pokryshkin of the Soviet air force shot down 48 of his 59 Nazi planes in a Bell Airacobra. It was one of the 11,000 planes we have supplied. From Oct 1942 until July 1944 we sent 3,079,000 tons of wheat, flour, canned meat, canned milk and other foodstuffs to the USSR. In the first six months of 1944 alone, we supplied 84,000 military motor vehicles, along with

aluminum, railroad rails, telephone wire, chemicals, and medical supplies. We dismantled, remodeled and moved bodily into Russia a tire plant capable of producing a million tires a year. American shipments to the USSR now average about 300 million dollars per month, or about 27 percent of the Lend-Lease materials which we provide to all Allies.

Donald M. Nelson, former chairman of the American War Production Board reported after his visit to the USSR in October 1943 that wherever he went he found "deep appreciation of the part which American material has played in aiding the Soviets to stem and drive back the Nazi invaders."

The USSR did not rely only on aid from abroad. Industrial retreat became industrial attack. Almost as soon as the last German soldier had been forced out of a town by the Red Army, the rebuilding of that town and its industries began.

The Kiev correspondent for the *Soviet War News* reports that in less than a year after the liberation of that city 242 factories were working. In the first nine months of 1944, those factories supplied the army and the home front with 160 million roubles' worth of goods.

Scorched Earth Blooms Again

Smolensk was liberated 26 Sept 1943. "Immediately after the expulsion of the Germans, the people of the region set to work to restore their towns and villages," reports the correspondent from Smolensk.

They restored to working order 113 factories, and set up 43 new factories turning out over 400 products. The peasants in the area not only restored 7,140 collective farms, but reached the pre-war level for winter and spring sewing."

In Kharkov, a grinding-lathe fac-

tory began to produce lathes while the walls were still going up and long before the roof was on. *Izvestia* writes that in Kharkov "freed a year ago, 240 industrial enterprises are producing for the front."

When possible, Soviet engineers are bypassing the lengthy process of tearing-down a badly damaged structure, salvaging the material and rebuilding. They are trying to make use of sections of building still standing. At Stalino, a huge brick wall that was leaning 35 degrees out of line was straightened. Sections of plants weighing many tons have been levered or "craned" into position.

The instances of rebuilding which have been cited are not exceptions; they can be multiplied many times over.

The Soviets' ability, to supply their armies is partly due to the hard

work of scientists. Some food was supplied from the Arctic Circle, because Soviet scientists developed seeds which could grow that far north. New methods of hardening metals were discovered when the Germans took over the raw materials used in older processes.

One of the most important "supplies" in time of war and one where Soviet scientists have made an outstanding contribution is in the field of medicine. United States Surgeon General Parran said, "among the recent contributions of Soviet medicine can be mentioned pioneer work on transfusion of blood and blood banks; transplantation of cornea, nerves, and other tissues. . . Soviet medicine has also had large experience in extensive public health projects; in the prevention and eradication of malaria, typhus, tularemia and venereal diseases."



WORKING TOGETHER IN WAR AND PEACE

This is a war of 37 nations united against a common enemy. Victory in Eastern Europe is being achieved by the people of the Soviet Union; we have a small share in that triumph. Their victory in turn is helping us to win in the West. Whoever pushes back the armies of the Axis anywhere, advances the cause of liberty-loving people everywhere.

Marshal Stalin declared on 7 Nov 1944, "The troops and Navy of our Allies accomplished a mass landing operation on the coast of France that was unparalleled in history for scope and organization, and overcame the German fortifications with consummate skill. . . There can be no doubt that without the opening of the Second Front in Europe which holds as much as 75 German divisions, our troops would not have been able to break the resistance of the German forces and knock them out of the Soviet Union in such a short time.

Fronts of Equal Importance

"But it is equally indubitable that without the powerful offensive operations of the Red Army in the summer of this year, which held as many as 200 German divisions, the forces of our Allies could not have coped so quickly with the German forces and knocked them out of Central Italy, France and Belgium."

The Soviets realize as we do that victory will not be won in the East or West until the armies of Germany have been beaten into unconditional surrender. Marshal Stalin concluded his address, stating that one final mission remained to the Red Army, "to complete, together with the armies of our Allies, the defeat of the German Fascist army, to finish off the Fascist beast in its own den, and to hoist the flag of victory over Berlin."

Although differences exist between the forms of government in the United States and the USSR, both governments are opposed to the fundamental Fascist ideas on which Germany has operated: (1) the master race, (2) the State is all important, (3) lebensraum, and (4) desire to dominate the world.

Four Fallacies of Fascism

Master race ? If the US is a "melting pot", then the Soviet Union is an electric mixer." Scientists have counted 189 "races" in the USSR. Under the Tsars, many of the racial minorities were persecuted. Today in the Soviet Union, there is no such thing as racial discrimination in practice or in theory. The people of each "race" have been encouraged to retain their own language, customs and individuality and to educate themselves and develop the economic wealth of the area in which they live.

State is all important ? Some people profess to see strong likeness between the Soviet and Nazi forms of government because each permits but one legal political party, each uses propaganda and secret police. However, the *goals* of the two governments are poles apart. The monopoly of the Communist Party is imposed to protect the interest of the common people against those who had formerly advantage of them. Its purpose is the welfare of the people, not the welfare of the state. In Germany, dictatorship sacrificed the people's welfare to the goal of preparing Germans for aggressive war. To illustrate this fundamental difference, the Soviets have encouraged trade unions; Hitler destroyed unions. Russia adopted the eight-hour day



and later reduced it to seven (until the danger of war was immediate); the Nazis lengthened the working day long before the outbreak of war. The Soviets granted equality to women—they work as farmers, engineers, heads of industries; the Fascists compelled women to give up jobs on the theory that woman's primary job was to produce children. The number of Soviet men and women in colleges increased by 800 percent from 1914 to 1937; in Germany, the number decreased by more than 50 percent from 1932 to 1937. Before World War I, only 33 percent of the people of Russia could read or write. Today practically everyone has been taught to do so.

Lebensraum? Stalin declared in 1936, "We want no foot of foreign territory." In area, the USSR is as large as all of the US, Canada and Alaska; it covers one-sixth of the land surface of the earth. Like the United States, it has nearly everything and lots of it—space, iron, coal, electric power, oil and grain.

Rule the world? The early leaders of Communism in Russia, advocated world revolution. Communist policy was modified in 1927 by Stalin, who believed Russia's most important contribution to socialism lay not in revolution but in building socialism successfully at home. The Soviet Union became one of the strongest supporters of cooperative

action to preserve peace; Trotsky, leader of the "world revolutionists," was exiled in 1927. . . Russia accepted the Kellogg-Briand Pact to outlaw war in 1928. . . they joined the League of Nations in 1934 and supported all attempts at disarmament. . . they abolished the Comintern (the Communist International) in May 1943. In Stalin's words, "We have no ideas of imposing our regime on other peoples. . . Our aim is to help liberate them from Nazi tyranny and then to leave them free to live in their own lands as they wish."

We Can Settle Differences

The forms of government may differ, but the Allies are united in the war against Fascist Germany. Problems will arise among nations as they arise among the people of one nation. The Allies have had certain disagreements about the war which they have settled. We are working together for victory in the east and west; will we be able to work together for victory in peace?

President Roosevelt, Marshal Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill gave this answer to that question at the Tcheran Conference, 1 December 1943:

"We express our determination that our nations shall work together in the war and in the peace that will follow.

"*As to the war*, our military staffs have joined in our roundtable discussions and we have concerted our plans for destruction of the German forces. We have reached complete agreements as to the scope and timing of operations which will be undertaken from the east, west and south. The common understanding which we have here reached guarantees that victory will be ours.

"*And as to the peace*, we are sure that our concord will make it an enduring peace. We recognise fully the supreme responsibility resting

upon us and all the nations to make a peace which will command good will from the overwhelming masses of the peoples of the world and banish the scourge and terror of war for many generations.

"With our diplomatic advisers we have surveyed the problems of the future. We shall seek the cooperation and active participation of all nations, large and small, whose peoples in heart and in mind are dedicated as are our own peoples, to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance. We will welcome them as they may choose to come into the world family of democratic nations."

At Teheran, American, British and Soviet leaders renewed their determination to carry on the fight against Fascism to speedy and unconditional surrender of the common enemy. In addition they laid the ground-work for organization of peace, and stated that it was their common intention to make renewed aggression impossible.

"We Can Do Business with Russia"

It has been recognized that certain problems cannot be settled at the present stage of the struggle, so complex are the military, political and economic issues interwoven in modern total war. Questions of boundary lines, of trade routes and post-war economics cannot be separated from military issues, but at the same time cannot be solved until the



pattern of Fascist defeat has taken clearer form.

Eric Johnston, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, frankly told USSR leaders when he visited Moscow, and further emphasized it when he returned to the United States, that differences which may persist in economic and political systems need not endanger greatly expanded trade relations.

Other unfinished business includes the organization of international control for post-war commercial air traffic, and the exertion of balanced power on the Security Council.*

Marshal Stalin has summed up these conferences and their results tersely and frankly:

"The surprising thing," he says, "is not that differences exist, but that they are so few, and that as a rule in practically every case they are resolved in a spirit of unity and coordination among the three Great Powers."

* See ARMY TALKS, DUMBARTON OAKS, *Framework for Peace*, 16 Dec. 44.

"What about Siberian bases for attacking Japan? Vladivostock lies at the end of a long supply line which is particularly vulnerable from Khabarovsk down. The Japanese Army has 500,000 troops deployed all along this supply route. If we or the Russians were to use these bases to bomb Japan, the bases would be made useless and Russia would be involved in a two-front war. Russia is engaging the main Nazi strength, and a two-front war for Russia would diminish the pressure on the worried Nazis and endanger the plans of our own army."

— From the W.D. film, "War Department Report."



NEWSCOPE



"WE HAVE RETURNED"

The battle for Leyte and Samar Islands in the Philippines began on 20 October 1944 and ended on 25 December. The Japs lost 2,748 planes in defense of the two islands and suffered 117,997 casualties as against American losses of 11,217. Persistent efforts to reinforce his garrisons on Leyte indicates the enemy's determination to fight an all-out battle in the Philippines. Apparently, the basis of Tokyo's strategy is that in a war of attrition the "soft" democracies can be bled into a stalemate.

From the Japanese point of view, the Philippines present a good battlefield for this purpose: (1) Their lifeline from Japan to Manila is comparatively secure from air attack now that United Nations' airfields in Southeastern China have been captured.

(2) Enemy supply routes through the interior waters of the Philippines are guarded by a well-developed network of air bases (see map.) The Allies have been attacking this line and have taken a heavy toll of lives and ships, but Japanese men and supplies are getting through.

Plenty of Japs

(3) The Japs can risk manpower losses. They have 4,000,000 soldiers in the field: 2,000,000 in China, the remainder scattered throughout Southeast Asia and the Philippines. In addition, 2,000,000 reserves at home are fully equipped, trained and ready to move. Beyond that, 250,000 reach draft age every year. (Japanese war dead since 1937, less than 1,000,000.)

(4) Jap factories produce about 1,500 planes a month. That is more than the Allies are shooting down, as yet.

(5) Lack of roads and railroads favors entrenched or retreating Japs. In the 7,000 islands which make up the Philippines, there are but 85 airports, a scant 15,000 miles of highways and less than 1,000 miles of railroads. Most of these facilities are on Luzon, a single northern island about the size of Virginia or Ohio.

On the other side of the slate: United Nations' Navies are annually sending 1,500,000 tons of the enemy's shipping to the bottom and he produces only 1,000,000 tons a year. Increasing B-29 raids on aircraft factories will lower plane production. US landings on the southern part of Mindoro Island on 15 Dec further endanger the enemy's Philippine supply line; four beach-heads secured 9 Jan on Luzon endanger Jap control of all the Philippine islands. Japanese air and manpower losses in the defense of Leyte are but a taste of what they must expect after combined US-British power released by victory in the West is concentrated in the Pacific.

SORRY! We received so many entries in the ARMY TALKS Contest that the judges were snowed under! All we can get them to say right now is, "Too many and too good!" They promise to have the winners soon, however, and the announcement will be made in ARMY TALKS, 3 February.

LISTEN: Tune in your American Forces Network for a dramatized version of the week's ARMY TALKS. Time: 1030 Saturday, 3rd February, 1945.

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AIRFIELDS
HELD BY JAPS

LUZON

BATAAN
CORREGIDOR

MANILA

PHILIPPINE
ISLANDS

MINDORO

JAPANESE
INTERIOR LINE
OF SUPPLY

PANAY

MASBATE

SAMAR

NEGROS

LEYTE

BOHOL





WHEN THE STEEL STARTS FLYING...



WHEN a Mark IV suddenly turns a corner and starts in your direction. . .when Jerry MG crossfire opens up. . .when you hit a booby-trapped town. . .brother, it's too late to get out Field Manual Umpteen dash Umpty-Umph for a refresher course. You've got to act — but quick!

That means starting *now*! Every week battle veterans are giving you the benefit of their experience, learned the hard way — to help save *YOUR* life! Read them. Re-read and discuss them. When the time comes to act, you'll know more about what to do, how to do it.

Read "Combat Tips" on the inside front cover of ARMY TALKS every week. Ask your Information and Education Officer for back issues with feature combat articles. Read "The Old Sergeant's Corner" and the battle stories in WARWEEK, the supplement to STARS AND STRIPES.

Ask your I & E Officer to see his copy of BATTLE EXPERIENCES — fresh accounts of latest enemy tactics from all fronts in the ETO.

These combat aids are straight stuff. They're not meant to entertain. They're not funny. They're published TO SAVE LIVES. Make it a point to read them regularly.